

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN from Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

COMMEMORATING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMIA JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER ATTACK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, this past Sunday thousands gathered around the world to commemorate the grim anniversary of the deadly attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center of Buenos Aires, Argentina. I was particularly honored to participate in a special ceremony in Miami, organized by the American Jewish Committee and Aventura Chabad, to share in this solemn occasion and recommit ourselves to holding the Iranian regime accountable for such death and destruction.

Sixteen years ago on Sunday the world saw firsthand the ruthless cruelty of the Iranian regime and the extent to which it would export its violent extremist views and activities worldwide. The Government of Argentina found that this heinous attack was organized by some of the highest past and present leaders of the Iranian regime. The state prosecutor of Argentina found that these Iranian leaders had turned to Hezbollah to carry out the regime's murderous adventures.

At a ceremony in Buenos Aires this weekend, a relative of one of the victims told the crowd, and I quote, "We accuse Iran of being behind the death of my brother, of your friends, of your neighbors; a country that denies the Holocaust, and even threatens to erase another country of the world with nuclear weapons, with the consent of Russia and Brazil; a country which shakes hands with Venezuela."

Madam Speaker, we must remain mindful that the same murderous ideology, and even some of the same perpetrators that spawned the AMIA attack then remain part of the Iranian regime today. Iran's current defense minister was issued an international arrest warrant by Interpol in 2007 based on his involvement in the AMIA attack. The Government of Argentina also found several former Iranian embassy officials to be responsible for the AMIA attack, showing us that Iran is more than willing to use its embassies abroad as tools of its extremist goals.

The ongoing "diplomatic" infiltration of Iran into the Western Hemisphere presents a direct threat to U.S. national security interests. The Argentine prosecutor reportedly concluded that the primary reason that Argentina was the chosen target of the AMIA attack was the Argentine Government's, quote, "unilateral decision to terminate the nuclear materials and technology supply agreements that had been concluded some years previously between Argentina and Iran."

Sixteen years later, we face an Iranian regime on the verge of obtaining nuclear weapons capabilities and seeking support for its nefarious agenda. This rogue state is stepping up its military, political, and economic cooperation with countries around the world, particularly in Latin America. A Defense Department report this April stated that the elite core of Iran's Revolutionary Guard is, quote, "well established in the Middle East and north Africa, and recent years have witnessed an increased presence in Latin America, particularly Venezuela."

Similarly, there have been press reports in Nicaragua that Iranian operatives have allegedly been moving in and out of the country using diplomatic cover. And the relationship between the Cuban and Iranian regimes is longstanding. The United States must work together with our democratic allies to address all facets of the Iranian threat, which goes well beyond the nuclear program and extends well past the Middle East.

With this in mind, I was proud to recently introduce, along with many of my House colleagues in a bipartisan way, House Concurrent Resolution 295, to both condemn the heinous AMIA attack in Buenos Aires and to serve as a reminder of the danger that Iran and its proxies pose to all freedom-loving people.

The members of the global jihadist network sponsored by Tehran have demonstrated time and time again, in word and in action, that they will stop at nothing to target and destroy the State of Israel, its interests overseas, and the Jewish people wherever they may be. It is more important than ever for our government and our Nation to stand unequivocally with Israel and against the growing threats to Israel's security and her very existence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DON'T TRAVEL IN AMERICA—IT'S TOO DANGEROUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, it's summertime, and families are having their summer vacations. They're taking their kids throughout the fruited plain in the United States to visit our historical Nation. But I bring you sad news. Our Federal Government has warned Americans that there are parts of America that they should not travel to. It is too dangerous to travel in parts of America because it's just not safe.

Here is an example. This sign is erected on Interstate 8 in Arizona. Interstate 8 is an east to west Interstate, highly traveled. It's anywhere from 30 to 100 miles north of the Mexican border, and about 30 or 60 miles south of Phoenix. In a section of 60 miles there are 12 of these signs posted. And here is what they say: "Danger—Public Warning—Travel Not Recommended."

What does that mean? It means the Federal Government is telling Americans you can't travel America, it's just too dangerous. We, the Federal Government, we can't protect you. Don't travel around here. And here are some of the comments on this sign. The first one says, "Active drug and human smuggling area." What does that mean? That means the drug cartels and the coyotes, those human smugglers, are sneaking their way across the border because it's porous in Arizona, as well as my home State of Texas, and they're bringing in drugs and they're bringing in people, and it's not safe because they don't do that in a very kind and gentle way, the smuggling operation.

It goes further. Number two: "Visitors may encounter armed criminals and smuggling vehicles traveling at high rates of speed." Oh, that sounds serious. You mean we can't take the kids down Interstate 8 because they've got the drug cartels and their fast vehicles bringing drugs? Yeah, the Federal Government, the big Federal Government says we can't protect you. Don't come here.

Number three on this sign, put up by the Bureau of Land Management: "Stay away from trash, clothing, backpacks, and abandoned vehicles." You see, when the coyotes bring the people in and the cartels bring in their drugs, they abandon much of their stuff that they bring in. They just throw it down, you know, on our interstates. They also throw it in some of our refuges. And it's just stay away from that because we don't know what's in all that property.

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The next one on here, No. 4, if you see suspicious activity, don't confront. Call 9/11.

I can tell you one thing: you pick up that phone and you call 9/11, you're not going to get the Federal Government to answer that phone because, you see, when you call 9/11, it's always some local, like the sheriffs of Arizona will call. What are they supposed to do, because the Federal Government doesn't

want them enforcing immigration and smuggling laws. Are they going to call ICE to come out there? The Federal Government's already said they can't protect you. So why call 9/11? That's a useless call.

And the last one it says: the BLM, the Bureau of Land Management, encourages visitors to use public lands north of Interstate 8 because, see, we can't protect you as the Federal Government in the land south of Interstate 8 that goes all the way to Mexico. Has the Federal Government ceded that land to Mexico, the drug dealers, and the human coyotes? Kind of sounds like it to me.

And now what is the Federal Government's response besides putting up a bunch of these signs saying, Don't travel America; don't take your kids across this country because it's not safe. We can't protect you. The Federal Government has decided to send its lawyers to the courthouse and sue the State of Arizona so they won't enforce and protect their own law.

The Federal Government ought to spend less time sending lawyers to the courthouse and spend a little more time sending the National Guard down to the border to keep people from coming into this country without permission. After all, it is the Federal Government's responsibility to protect us and let us travel all of our interstate highways, even Interstate 8 in Arizona.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, tonight I would like to bring up the issue of Afghanistan. This weekend in the Raleigh News and Observer, they published 20 names of our men and women who have given their lives for this country. As most of you know, I have written over 9,000 letters to immediate and extended families of the fallen. Lately, the numbers have dramatically increased. More and more of our sons and daughters in uniform are paying the ultimate price.

I would like to reference this poster beside me. The picture's of a flag-draped coffin being carried off a plane. This is war. This is the reality of war.

In a recent debate on the floor of the House regarding Afghanistan, I made reference to conservative George Will and liberal Thomas Friedman. Both have stated in written editorials that there is nothing we can accomplish in Afghanistan. In an article published in Newsweek yesterday, Richard Haass

shares this opinion. His article is entitled, "We're not winning. It's not worth it."

In my remaining time I would like to share some thoughts of a former general who's my personal adviser on Afghanistan. These are his words, not mine: "The basic 'mission' of defeating al Qaeda in Afghanistan is a sham. Our own intelligence tells us that there are only about 50 al Qaeda members in the mountains of Afghanistan and Pakistan . . . certainly nothing worth sending thousands upon thousands of our best young men and women to fight. Al Qaeda is not a geographic entity . . . it cannot be pinpointed to a single area. Attacking them in Afghanistan or Pakistan just pushes them to other locations . . . Yemen is the perfect example. It is like playing the child's game 'Whack a Mole.' Stop al Qaeda in one area and they will just pop up in another. Bottom Line: the war against terror is not to be found in the mountains of Afghanistan or Pakistan . . . as we have vividly seen in Uganda and the U.S. recently."

Madam Speaker, I mention that, and I have this poster that shows, again, as I have been repetitive for just one moment, the number of young men and women coming back from Afghanistan and Iraq in a flag-draped coffin.

It's our policy, responsibility on the House floor and in the Senate to debate policy. These young men and women are doing exactly what they joined the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force and have sworn they will do for this country. They will go when their leaders call upon them to go. It is our responsibility on the floor of the House to debate the policy, and the policy on Afghanistan has been proven from Alexander the Great to the English, to the Russians, to all the countries: you are taking a country with over 1,400 tribes and trying to make it a nation. It just is not going to happen.

And it's not fair to our men and women in uniform to continue to send them back 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 deployments. We had a marine recently down at Camp Lejeune, which is in my district, a sergeant who committed suicide right there on the streets of Camp Lejeune.

We are wearing out our military. It's time to have another debate on the floor of the House, and it's time to bring these troops home and rebuild our military and rebuild the equipment and make America's military strong again.

Madam Speaker, I will close with this: God, please bless our men and women in uniform. Please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. And, God, in Your loving arms hold the families who've given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. And, God, give the strength to the House and the Senate that we will do what is right in the eyes of God and give strength to Mr. Obama to do what is right in the eyes of God.

And, God, three times I will ask from the bottom of my heart, God, please,

God, please, God, please continue to bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

36TH ANNIVERSARY OF INVASION OF CYPRUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, for nearly 36 years, the people of Cyprus have endured an illegal occupation and massive violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms by Turkey after it invaded a sovereign nation 36 years ago tomorrow. It breaks my heart to hear the stories of how the occupied north has been devastated, how the Turkish occupiers have converted chapels in Kyrenia into bars and tourist information centers; how once beautiful churches have been converted into mosques; how the U.N. peacekeepers on the island have watched for 36 years as the Turkish Army has laid land mines and can only sit and note what's being done—a peacekeeping force operating with no mandate to stop the lawlessness.

It breaks my heart that families forcibly removed from their homes had all of their personal and real property stolen from them. More heartbreaking than anything else are the persons missing since 1974. Madam Speaker, whose families still grieve knowing they will never be at peace until their sons, brothers, husbands, and fathers are accounted for and whose bones must be laid to rest.

Yet the Turkish Government still refuses to cooperate. To us, their actions aren't acceptable. That is why we will continue to fight and persist in our efforts to reunify Cyprus and make the island whole again and heal the wounds. A solution to the Cyprus problem has come from the Cypriots themselves and must serve first and foremost the interests of the Cypriots.

The key to a successful outcome of the negotiating process and reunification of the island remains in Ankara, since a solution to the Cyprus problem cannot be reached without Turkey's full and constructive cooperation. Turkey must give the new Turkish Cypriot leader the freedom to negotiate a solution. Turkey must start with the removal of its occupation troops and illegal settlers from Cyprus.

The role of the U.N. and the international community is to provide assistance and support the process. The process should not be subjected to false time frames. The United States has publicly supported a solution of the Cyprus problem and specifically a